

TO: Chairman and Members

DATE: March 10, 2011

**SUBJECT: Status of Crowding
Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls**

AGENDA ITEM: J

**ACTION: X
INFORMATION:**

RESOURCE PERSON: Field Representative, Toni Gardner

Summary:

This information item reports on the status of crowding at Los Angeles County's Central, Los Padornos and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Halls. The Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) is mandated under Section 209(e), Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) to determine the suitability of California juvenile halls when issues of noncompliance arise from sustained occupancy levels that are above the population capacity. As part of Los Angeles County Probation Department's January 6, 2009 Suitability Plan (SP), CSA staff have monitored the crowding and totality of conditions at the Los Angeles County juvenile halls and made regular reports to the CSA Board.

Background:

As a result of outstanding areas of noncompliance, including crowding, which were cited in the 2006-2008 CSA inspection cycle, the CSA Board considered the matter of the suitability of Los Angeles County's juvenile halls for the confinement of minors at its September 2008, November 2008, and January 2009 meetings. At the January 8, 2009 meeting, the CSA Board found the Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls suitable for the confinement of minors, following the implementation of the suitability plan (SP) dated January 6, 2009. The Board requested that a representative from the Los Angeles County Probation Department be present at future CSA Board meetings to provide a report on the status of the crowding at the juvenile halls. The Chief Probation Officer or his representative has reported on the county's progress in implementing the SP at the March 19, 2009, May 21, 2009, September 10, 2009, March 11, 2010 and September 9, 2010 Board meetings. Those status reports cited progress made in eliminating crowding and improving conditions of confinement.

As part of the SP, Los Angeles County Probation Department provides CSA staff with detailed population accounting for the three juvenile halls. Since the January 8, 2009 board meeting, Los Angeles County has maintained the population of each unit at each of its juvenile halls below the limits specified in the SP with minor exceptions which are seen in the attached charts (Attachment A). Additionally, each unit of each juvenile hall has been at or below its rated capacity (RC) every day since March 12, 2010, with the single exception noted in Attachment A. The reduction in population is even more striking when viewed from the system wide perspective. As illustrated in Attachment B, the Detention Services Bureau has reduced its juvenile hall average daily population by 687 since a high of 1,810 in 2010. The population has been reduced by 481 since their Board appearance in 2008.

In addition to reviewing population data from the county, CSA staff have made quarterly visits to the juvenile halls in order to assess the totality of conditions. The most recent visit occurred on

January 5, 2011 and is summarized in Attachment C, the letter to Chief Probation Officer Donald Blevins. Los Angeles County has worked within its suitability plan for over two years and has been successful in achieving and sustaining a significant population reduction. Chief Blevins and CSA staff request that no further updates be required of Los Angeles County. If future crowding was to occur, the county would be required to follow the procedures for reporting occurrences of crowding outlined on the CSA website:

http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/CSA/FSO/Docs/Form_Juvenile_crowding_assessment_10_final.doc

Recommendation/Action Needed: That no future crowding updates be required of Los Angeles County, relating to the January 8, 2009 Board action in finding the county's juvenile halls suitable for the confinement of minors.